

# Woosehill Church Magazine

**November - December 2020**



**Sharing God's love with the community**

**Find us on our website  
[woosehillchurch.org](http://woosehillchurch.org)  
and on our Facebook page  
Or follow our livestreamed services on  
YouTube**



## *Dear Church Family and all other readers,*

As we reach the end of the year and enter the Advent season we give thanks for the way that this church, this parish and churches across the globe have adapted to the challenges they have faced. In these pages you can read about the steps that we at Woosehill Church are taking to stay together and I have not included them all! Of course we must be especially grateful to our tech team who have risen so magnificently to the huge challenges and given us a continuity of worship that we couldn't have managed without them.

We think especially at this time of those who are living alone and urge you to let us know if there is anything we can do to help - as always Lynn Smith is your contact person.

Christmas is going to be different this year but it's central message, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ remains the same.

Whatever you are doing over the Christmas season I wish you a blessed time and hope to 'meet' many of you at our online services.

Stay safe and God bless,

*Val*

**Next deadline: 20 January 2021**  
**Articles as usual preferably by e-mail to:**  
**valerie.weedon@btinternet.com**

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## A Message from our Minister



Dear friends in Christ,

Christmas is not the same for us this year. Although there will be some allowance for a few days before and after Christmas for families to get together, people will still feel the spirit of Christmas largely missing. For many people, this is one of the few occasions in the year when they enjoy the company of family and friends. Whether it will be realised, is a big question for them at present.

Despite all the limitations COVID-19 pandemic has brought around us, we cannot help but muse at the pace of life, as we stand at the end of the year, wondering how quickly the time has gone. We wonder at the cyclical nature of things that are around us. Advent has just begun and Christmas and New Year in sight and all that we are familiar with, from nature to religious festivals, give us that sense of our life progressing in a cyclical way.

It is good. It is good in that we are helped to move on. For us believers, we see the constant presence of God helping and sustaining us through the changes and repetitions.

Over the years, we have realised that this season is full of mixed emotions. As much as there is excitement, we have often found there is a touch of anxiety too. The economic hardships that the nation has been going through for many years and specially now, families and individuals having to face hardships, only heightens that experience further.

Former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Cary, once said, *"we are living in a beautiful, but broken world"*. There is beauty all around us; in the love and warmth we experience and in all the good things we enjoy. At the same time, there is brokenness, that many around us do not get to experience the comfort and joy that everyone aspires to have in their lives.

It is into this brokenness Christ Jesus came, showing the world God's love and care and bringing hope and healing to all. And it is into this brokenness we are called to serve as Christians, playing our tiny parts. Fulfilment of being Christians is not achieved through musing and marvelling. It is realised by serving those whom Christ came to serve.

May this season bring you the richness of God's blessings and peace!

With all good wishes,

**Soba Sinnathamby-**



## Woosehill Church Christmas Post

It may not be beginning to feel a lot like Christmas, but we can still carry on with church traditions to make sure that it soon does. So, the Woosehill Church Christmas post-box will be running from Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. There are a few changes to how we normally run it. As the Church is not open at the moment the post-box will be placed in the church foyer and cards can be posted through the Church letter box. The cards will be collected regularly during the week. Last posting date is earlier than usual, **Friday 18th December**. This gives us more time to sort through the cards. All cards will be hand delivered to your home this year by our lovely volunteer helpers. All cards will have been in quarantine for 3 days before we deliver them. Your cards will be together in a sealed plastic bag. Whilst sorting out the cards we will wear masks and gloves to minimise the risk.



If you would like to participate this year, we ask that you make a donation to the Church's charities, if you can. This year please make your donation by bank transfer wherever possible.

**Bank: Lloyds Bank**

**Sort Code: 30-91-11**

**Account Number: 03479763**

**Account Name: Woosehill Community Church**

**Reference : CARDS**

If you would like more details please contact me on [emmaloisewells@btinternet.com](mailto:emmaloisewells@btinternet.com). If anyone would like to send cards but cannot get to the Church, please do contact me and we will arrange to collect your cards.

At this time, it is more important than ever to reach to our friends and hopefully this will help people feel more connected with each other and the Church. As always, please only send cards to people who are part of the Woosehill Church family.

## **Christmas at Woosehill and in the Parish**

**All services will be live streamed on YouTube, search YouTube for Woosehill Church and see our website and Facebook**



**Advent service - 29 November and now on YouTube**



**Christingle Service  
6 December at 10am**



**Christmas Reflections with Communion  
20 December at 10am**



**The Christmas story  
24 December at 4pm, livestreamed only**



**Midnight Communion  
24 December at St Paul's**



**Morning Worship for Christmas Day  
25 December at 10am**



**Parish Service  
27 December 9.30am  
Livestreamed from St Paul's**



## Lockdown Reflection

I don't miss my close friends. Oh, I miss seeing them face to face, I miss sharing a cup of tea with them, chatting face to face. I miss the casual touch, the hug of greeting or of comfort. But I do see them! I see them online, in Zoom, FaceTime, WhatsApp, etc. I get to talk to them. I know they are OK.

It's the same for my family. I long for the time when we can meet properly again. I want to hug my grandchildren. But I do see them regularly, and play online games with them. I know what's going on in their lives. I know they are OK.

But there are some I do miss. The people I am not so close to, but who I used to see regularly, especially at church on Sunday mornings. People I might bump into in Morrison's in the days when we shopped frequently & weren't hiding behind masks.

People I valued because they were part of our church family. I miss our church family.

People I have not seen, have not spoken to, since Covid began. I do not know what is going on in their lives. I do not know if they will still be around when all this is over. I do not know if they are OK.

We are created to live in community. From the first moment when God said of Adam 'It is not good for the man to be alone', the Bible is full of advice about living in community. God is a relational being and we are made in his image. Community is important for everyone.

As Christians our fellowship with each other is of even more importance. Jesus said

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (**John 13:35**) And the author of Hebrews wrote "Let us not give up meeting together.....but let us encourage one another" (**Hebrews 10:2**) It is a duty and a joy to both give and receive the encouragement of other Christians.

In 1 Corinthians 12 St Paul describes the church as the body of Christ, made up of many parts. "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." (**1 Corinthians 12:26**) He tells the Ephesians that we are all "members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 3:6)

In the communion service we echo Paul's words to the Corinthians (**1 Corinthians 10:17**) saying "Though we are many, we are one body because we all share in one bread".

It is difficult at the moment because we cannot meet together, cannot sing hymns together, cannot share the Eucharist together. We pray desperately for this all to be over and perhaps the end is in sight with the promise of vaccines in the New Year. In the meantime what more can we do to 'meet together & encourage one another' especially as Christmas approaches? So many of our Christmas services will be on line with minimum personal attendance. Some, especially the carol singing, simply won't happen. At least the post box will still be in operation, thanks to Emma, and this year I will be sending real cards!

Is there anything else we can do? If not, then we should all make every effort to meet together using the means we have available, especially the Sunday zoom coffee mornings and the Advent course on Tuesday afternoons or evenings. If there is anyone who would like to join in but cannot access Zoom do please get in touch with me or Lynn Smith or the clergy.

**Doreen**

**Coffee after Church**

Meeting ID: 851 5575 9369

Password: 662208

**Advent course Tuesdays** at 3pm and again at 8pm

Meeting ID: 843 0919 0384

Passcode: 599930



## WoolWAM (Wool With A Mission)

Until the first lockdown in March, our friendly knitting & crochet group met monthly in Church, producing many gorgeous items which were donated to the First Days charity based in Hurst (First Days collect & distribute clothes & equipment for the children of local families in need). In September, one of our members, Rachel, contacted the rest of the group to ask if they, like her, had continued knitting/crocheting through lockdown & offered to collect & take to First Days. The two photos show the massive haul of gorgeous cardigans, jumpers, hats, toys & blankets which were gathered & taken to First Days – safe to say they were both overwhelmed & delighted in equal measure !!

**Alison**





## Tony Sayer

**13 September 1946 - 27 September 2020**

The church family was shaken in September by the unexpected death of Tony our treasurer. Tony was very involved in many aspects of the church and will be greatly missed.

Tony's funeral was held at Woosehill on 30th October and was also streamed online - still available on our YouTube channel.

He is now with his dearly loved wife Margaret - rest in peace Tony.

Tony's daughter Beth bravely read the following poem at the funeral service:

God looked around his garden  
And found an empty place,  
He then looked down upon the earth  
And saw your tired face.  
He put his arms around you  
And lifted you to rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful  
He always takes the best.  
He knew that you were suffering  
He knew you were in pain.  
He knew that you would never  
Get well on earth again.  
He saw the road was getting rough  
And the hills were hard to climb.  
So he closed your weary eyelids  
And whispered, 'Peace be thine'.  
It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you didn't go alone,  
For part of us went with you  
The day God called you home.

Poem by Katie Evans



### News of past friends

Some good news from Western Australia. Lynn Smith passes on the good news of Paddy's engagement to Sarah.

For more recent church members, Paddy was our minister before Patrick. We send our good wishes from all at Woosehill.



### John Bausor

John moved to Wiltshire earlier this year to be nearer to his daughters. He sends us this message:

I moved in here on 4th August, and have since been getting settled in, unpacking, sorting furniture, getting curtains etc. Now pretty well all sorted. It is a two bedroom bungalow, one of three converted from a former care home. It has been done to a very high standard, and is a delight to live in.

My middle daughter Mary and husband Andy live five minutes walk away, and my youngest daughter Joanna and family (who used to live in Windmill Avenue) are in Corsham three miles away, so I have family to call on in case of need. I see them both regularly. There is a small Co-op three minutes walk away which is very convenient, and Sainsbury, Lidl and B&Q quite close - I still do all my own shopping. Covid levels in Wiltshire are still pretty low.

I am quite fit, although I had a nasty bout of bursitis in my left elbow after a spill from my bike in the local woods. It slowly got better with antibiotics.

I have been to the local Anglican church, St Peter's, a few times on a Sunday, but with social distancing and masks etc it is difficult to get to know anyone. They do not do any online services - I gather Woosehill now broadcasts the Sunday service. St Peter's has a strong food bank involvement. I certainly miss Woosehill Church.

All the best, **John**

### **The peace that comes in prayer**

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.' [Philippians 4:6-7](#)

Church Online  
NOT CANCELED

Quiet Time With God  
NOT CANCELED

Praying For The Sick  
NOT CANCELED

Checking On A Friend  
NOT CANCELED

Helping Others  
NOT CANCELED

Being The Church  
NOW MORE THAN EVER



**EMBRACE**  
the Middle East

**News from our overseas  
church charity**

### **Advent Resources**

Our 2020 Advent Resources, The Promise and the Gift, are live! In addition to daily advent reflections from our friends and partners in the region and also closer to home, there will be an Arabic word of the day, plus resources for your churches, including sermons and intercessions, a Nativity play script and so much more.

### **Annual Lecture – John McCarthy**

Our Annual Lecture this year is being pre-recorded and will be broadcast on 4 dates: 30 January, 1, 3, and 4 February. We're delighted to have John McCarthy as our speaker this year. John will be speaking about his book 'You Can't Hide the Sun' and then updating it by giving us his take on Israel and Palestine today in light of the 'Deal of the Century' and the US's change in its embassy's location. You can sign up to watch online on our website . Please do also spread the word, especially if you are part of or know of any local book clubs that would be interested in reading "You Can't Hide the Sun".

### **Epiphany Service**

We're thrilled to be partnering with the Church of England for January's Epiphany Sunday service. The service is being led by Revd Debbie Collins, and we are having music provided by choral scholars from Kings College London. The Rt Rev Hosam Naoum, Bishop Coadjutor of the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem, will be our preacher, and there will be readings and prayers from other friends and partners in the region. It's really exciting that Embrace get to be a part of it this big event. You'll be able to view it either on the Church of England [website](#), or Facebook and YouTube pages.

**Levette Callander**, one of Embrace's good friends and faithful volunteers from the Scottish hub, is kindly putting together a book entitled 'Taste and See – A Book of Journeys'. Levette is kindly donating the proceeds of the book to Embrace's work in Lebanon. The book will includes stories from the UK, the Middle East and further afield, along with photos and a recipe section. It will hopefully be ready for the Spring, and will have a piece in our

eyes peeled and please do purchase it. If any of you have any other ideas about how this can be promoted further, please contact Levette on [levettejc@gmail.com](mailto:levettejc@gmail.com).

### **Partner Updates**

As you all know, it's been an extremely difficult time in Lebanon. Since the explosion in August in the port of Beirut the number of new infections has soared and the health system is yet again overwhelmed.

Thank you for reading, and as ever, we really appreciate your faithful support during these times.

Blessings,

### **Rowena Worthington**

Programmes and Public Engagement Coordinator

Embrace say:

Don't underestimate how important your prayers can be! Our friends in the Middle East are truly strengthened and inspired by the knowledge that they are not alone in their mission and that so many people care about them and the vulnerable people they serve.





## Tadpoles



Our very popular group for under fives and their carers has not been able to meet in church since March, but we have made every effort to stay in touch with our families.

A very special aspect of Tadpoles has always been the support and friendship which develops amongst our (mainly) Mums and Grannies. We encourage this by keeping the group small and this has always been very much appreciated.

So what do you do when you are suddenly unable to meet?

We have a fairly active 'Tadpoles at Woosehill' Facebook page which is just for members past and present - many of our former families stay in touch with us through this means. During the time we have been closed we have posted messages of support as well as craft ideas to do at home, often on Wednesday mornings with the first line of our circle song 'Hello everyone, how are you today?'

Our technology took a significant leap during the summer when Emma Wells offered an afternoon Zoom session of story and craft. The take up was small but much enjoyed by the participants, especially Molly and Daisy who joined in weekly.

After the summer break we rather ran out of steam, not knowing who had now moved on to nursery or big school. Ruth then had the great idea, picked up from Mothers' Union, of offering coffee at the church door after school drop off. This has developed to often include a craft bag to take away (Covid secure!) and a story. All this is weather permitting and we have so far been pretty lucky!

What has emerged from this exercise, is a realisation that perhaps the mums are missing the group more than the children, who are catered for in other settings. On some Wednesdays we have no children, but former Tadpoles mums drop by for coffee and chat - perhaps this is something to build on in

As Advent approached, Sue Youle suggested we might reach out to our families with the message of Advent and Christmas. This is the message from our Facebook page, written by Sue:

**'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.' John 1:5**

We would like to invite you to celebrate the light and hope of Christmas with us as we journey through Advent together.

Each day we plan to set aside some time for reflection (maybe between 5.30 and 6pm), to light a candle, listen to or sing a carol and feel that we are all still part of our extended Tadpoles family, even though we are not able to meet in person at this time.

We will be lighting our candles for the first time during our online service, led by Doreen, on Sunday 29th November at 10am. Please tune in if you can or catch up later via the YouTube channel on the church website ([woosehillchurch.org](http://woosehillchurch.org))

You can either use your own candle (real or battery operated) or we can supply you with a candle and holder like the one in the photo.

We look forward to you joining us in this and maybe seeing some photos of you as you share this special season with us.



We intend to resume Tadpoles Alfresco in December weather permitting and will carry on as long as necessary. Thanks to the team for all your support .

**Val**



## Foodbank current needs



20/11/2020

- **Shower Gel**
- **Shampoo**
- **Tinned tomatoes**
- **Pasta sauce**

Unfortunately we do not have suitable storage facilities for fridge/freezer items therefore we are unable to accept perishable foodstuffs.

At the present time we have an abundance of the following:

Soup, Baked Beans, Pasta, Biscuits, Squash and Tea Bags

A **huge** thank you to everyone who continues to support us, we really do appreciate it, and so do the people you help.

## Poem

My grandmother once gave me a tip...  
In difficult times, you move forward in small steps.  
Do what you have to do, but little by little.  
Don't think about the future, or what may happen tomorrow.  
Wash the dishes.  
Remove the dust.  
Write a letter.  
Make a soup.  
You see?  
You are advancing step by step.  
Take a step and stop.  
Rest a little.  
Praise yourself.  
Take another step.  
Then another.

You won't notice, but your steps will grow more and more.  
And the time will come when you can think about the future without crying."

~ Elena Mikhalkova





## Easy Fundraising reminder



EasyFundraising is a way for the Church to gain extra income from your online shopping at no cost to you, and is simple to use. It's safe to use as you still buy from the retailers own web site with all the usual security and delivery information available.

By going to the retailers web site via **EasyFundraising** they will record your visit and make a small donation to the Church if you purchase something.

Easy Fundraising works on any common computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone. It will look a little different depending on your device and software, but the principles remain the same. To get started either download and open the EasyFundraising App, or use any of the common web browsers and go to

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/woosehillchurch>.

If you have used Easy Fundraising before simply Log In, or if you have not used it before you will need to create an account with your name and email address.

Once you have an account search for Woosehill Community Church as the organisation you wish to support. You are now set up to start fundraising for the Church.

You can search for retailers by name, although not every retailer is part of the EasyFundraising scheme. If the retailer you want is there click on their name and when their page comes up it will show you what donations are available, click on the Shop Now button. You will be taken to the retailers own web site and anything you purchase will qualify for the donation, usually a percentage of the goods value, sometimes a fixed amount donation.

Here are some tips I have found useful to increase the donations to Woosehill Church

Comparison web sites such as Compare The Market often make large one-off donations, currently £12.50 if you buy insurance through their site. So you can support the Church while you are saving on your car insurance.

Most Chrome and Edge web browsers have an EasyFundraising add on that will alert you to a possible donation when you are on a retailers web site, so you don't miss out on donations.

Its worth shopping around for products that are available from multiple retailers to find the one offering the best donation.

EasyFundraising often make special offers of increased donations for a period of time, or for specific goods.

Many popular retailers support EasyFundraising, larger ones such as John Lewis, Amazon, M&S, AO.com, plus a lot of smaller retailers if you prefer to look after them too. Currently Woosehill Church is receiving about £250 per year from EasyFundraising donations, lets see if we can beat that in 2021. If you get stuck or would like some help I'm happy for you to call me. **Steve Bottom**



## THE COWSHED

The Cowshed is a new charity which provides support to people of all backgrounds in a time of personal crisis. The aim of The Cowshed is to provide good quality cleaned and ironed clothes and other essentials for individuals and families in Berkshire experiencing hardship. The clothes are donated from the general public as well as retailers and manufacturers; they are then sorted, washed and ironed at our premises ready to be delivered or collected by social services, other health professionals or our clients. The idea is that our clients feel they are receiving a gift to assist them in a time of crisis rather than some old clothes that are over worn, marked or damaged.

We offer our services to people from all faiths and none. We work in partnership with support services such as GPs, Health Visitors, Churches, charities and social service agencies who provide us with referrals.

We are grateful of all donations of new or used clothing, footwear, bedding & curtains at our lovely new distribution centre in Winnersh, 4 Kings Street Lane, RG415AS on Monday - Thursday 10am - 3pm. *(It is a very new building on your right as you enter King Street Lane opposite Sainsbury's and has 4 KSL on the front by the door)*

We love what we do at The Cowshed and are constantly being reminded how lucky we are to have such wonderful people supporting us so we can offer help to those who most need it in our local community, especially during Covid.

We are privileged to have been able to support a variety of individuals of all ages in very different but difficult situations including those fleeing domestic abuse, individuals and families experiencing emergency rehousing, health issues resulting in poverty, the homeless, emergency custody situations, poor housing conditions to name but a few.



All of these people are in our local community and required help with clothing, shoes, bedding, curtains and other essential items.

## HOW WE RE-USE AND RECYCLE

We use all the clothes that are donated to us – the good quality items are washed and ironed ready for our clients and the slightly damaged clothes/ bedding are repurposed by our community arts and crafts group into items for us to sell, and tote bags for us to put our referrals in. Any remaining textiles are collected by a recycling organisation to raise further funds to help sustain the charity. We are averaging donations of between 3 and 4 tonnes a month, all of which has been recycled in some way, either for direct use for our referrals or in our other initiatives, saving a huge amount from landfill.

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## News from one of our local church charities

We've had a great start to our new project, [The Lounge](#). First of all, we enjoyed meeting with each year group bubble at The Emmbrook School to discuss the idea with them and give them lots of time to think and tell us what they would like The Lounge to look like.

At Soulscape, we always seek to be led by the young people themselves, so that our projects provide what they really need and address the issues that truly matter to them. The Emmbrook students have been great partners in shaping their new space with us.

We've had to think about how to run a low-pressure drop-in space but still keep students within their bubbles. Our solution is to open The Lounge through the lunch break, with two 'shifts' each day. This means, for example, that Year 10s can drop in during the first half of Monday lunch time, and Year 7s can drop in during the last half. Other year groups get a turn on different week days.

Our aim is to create a space to "come as you are", rest, and – if you want to – talk to our volunteers or explore an activity like the one below.



The team set up 12 of these jars in The Lounge to prompt discussion about recognising how we're feeling. They had great conversations with the students about what feelings might be inside the different jars.

One student this term summed it up by saying: **"Thank you for just listening to me."** We are really looking forward to seeing how The Lounge develops over the rest of the year.



## Yeldall Manor



I want to thank you so much for your faithful prayer support. Despite the many challenges of this year, God has been so clearly at work, protecting and providing for us. We are also so blessed to continue to see lives being changed; men coming to us often feeling hopeless and weary with battling their addiction, but slowly becoming more at peace with themselves and seeing signs of hope again. Even better when they start letting God in more too.

We cannot overestimate the importance that your prayers play in this ministry of transformation, sustaining staff and bringing about life-changing impact for our residents.

May God bless you for your kind support of us.

In Him,

Sue Hedger

## **WOW - Women of Woosehill Church**

We started off the year with a full programme of monthly activities most of which sadly have had to be cancelled. However, in the first lockdown we ran a virtual Book Club which proved to be a success. Members also had the choice of showing off an artefact which was special to them, telling us a bit about its history. These 'events' resulted in overflowing inboxes and after that we faded somewhat.

Thanks to Lynn we woke up again in October and planned a social Zoom where we discussed how to stay together in a rather less noisy manner as is the way with an unstructured Zoom!

Our next meeting in December will be a sharing of Christmas poems followed in January and February with another Book Club as this has proved very enjoyable in the past.

As always we welcome new members and if you prefer to sit back and listen rather than present, that is absolutely fine..

One day we will

meet again face to face.



## **Quiz Night**

Thanks to Lynne and Phil for organising a great Quiz Night on 27 November raising around £400 for Action for Children and the Children's Society which would normally benefit from our Carol and Crib services.



## Woosehill Church Services and meetings

Church services have now resumed at Woosehill as before at 10am each Sunday. Pre-booking is advised and masks should be worn.

To book a place please email: [stewards@woosehillchurch.org](mailto:stewards@woosehillchurch.org)

These services are also livestreamed for those who are still shielding as well as old friends who no longer live in the area. Links should appear weekly on the Website and Facebook pages or via our YouTube link.

We also at present Zoom:

Bible study on Tuesday evenings 8-8.30pm

Morning Prayer for the Parish on Thursday mornings at 8.30am

Contact Lynn Smith on 0118 9619393 for details

For Zoom house group on Monday evenings contact Geoff Peck on 0118 9786711

### Church Contacts

Rev'd Soba Sinnathamby, 23 Sheridan Way RG41 3AP  
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